

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



President Tsai is interviewed by *BBC* following her victory in Taiwan's presidential election.

IN THE NEWSLETTER

Key events featured in this issue include President Tsai's interview with *BBC* following her election victory, Foreign Minister Wu calling on the World Health Organization to recognise Taiwan is not under China's jurisdiction, the TRO presenting UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Taiwan with the Award for Special Contribution to Taiwan Tourism, Representative Lin highlighting the strength of Taiwan's democracy in an interview with *BBC Newshour*, *The Financial Times*, *The Times* and *City AM* all expressing support for Taiwan's democracy following its elections and UK students visiting the TRO to learn more about Taiwan.

China needs to show Taiwan respect, says President Tsai in *BBC* interview following election victory

On 14 January, President Tsai Ing-wen was interviewed by the *BBC* about Taiwan's presidential elections on 11 January, relations with China and the US, national defence and diplomacy. In response to questions about Taiwanese independence, the president stressed that as a functionally independent country, Taiwan has its own government, elections and presidential elections, adding "that is a way to express that we do have sovereignty, and our people elect their own leaders." She added that "we don't have to declare ourselves an independent state. We are an independent country already." Commenting on the importance of China in Taiwan's recent elections, President Tsai stated "China is one thing, because people want to make sure that the president can deal

with China in the right way” but also stressed the importance of having a president that can manage the relationship and keep it stable. The president also highlighted the intensifying threat of China over the last three years, citing military vessels or aircraft cruising around Taiwan as well as the developments in Hong Kong: “people get a real sense that this threat is real and it's getting more and more serious.”

On cross-strait relations, President Tsai emphasised both sides have to think more seriously about the future to work to find a way to co-exist and maintain peace and stability across the strait. Commenting on national defence, the president stressed that Taiwan has adopted an attitude of non-provocation while strengthening its defence capabilities. President Tsai also highlighted Taiwan’s coordinated efforts with the US to maintain peace and stability in the region. In response to questions about Beijing’s reaction toward the outcome of Taiwan’s election, the president stressed that China should face reality, adding that the election result was a very strong message from the people of Taiwan: “We’re a successful democracy and have a decent economy. We deserve respect from China.” During the interview, President Tsai also emphasised her government’s domestic reforms, including pension reform, legalising same-sex marriage and the development of the offshore wind energy sector. The president concluded by sharing her vision for the future: “I want to make this place more democratic and more competitive, one of the main economic players around the world.”

Foreign Minister Wu calls on WHO to recognise Taiwan is not under China’s jurisdiction



On 2 February, Taiwan’s Foreign Minister Joseph Wu urged the World Health Organization (WHO) to recognise the reality that Taiwan is Taiwan and stop violating the health rights of the country’s 23 million people. Minister Wu made the remarks during a special news conference addressing the global outbreak of the new coronavirus. The minister pointed out that Taiwan is not under China’s jurisdiction, adding that Taiwan’s and China’s health are administered by separate and independent health authorities; and Taiwan’s and China’s flight information regions are administered by separate and independent civil

aviation administrations. “This is such a simple reality that the WHO should never have missed it,” Minister Wu stated.

The Foreign Minister stressed the WHO’s decision to include Taiwan as part of China in its international health emergency report created “real problems” for Taiwan, such as Italy banning flights from Taiwan on 31 Jan. Minister Wu stressed the number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Taiwan is not higher than in most countries affected. “No other country aside from China has had its flights banned, and the MOFA is working through all diplomatic channels to resolve the issue with Italy,” he added. The minister said the WHO’s mistreatment of Taiwan keeps the country out of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the governing body of the WHO, and excludes government officials from participating in related activities, mechanisms and meetings. “If the motto of the WHO is ‘health for all and leave no one behind’, the Taiwanese people are certainly not treated that way,” he added. Minister Wu also praised the staunch support for Taiwan’s meaningful WHO participation by like-minded partners such as Canada, Japan, the EU and US. “Their strong voice should not be ignored.”

TRO presents UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Taiwan with Award for Special Contribution to Taiwan Tourism



On 29 January, Representative Lin presented UK Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to Taiwan, Lord Faulkner of Worcester, with the Award for Special Contribution to Taiwan Tourism on behalf of the Tourism Bureau of the Transportation Ministry of Taiwan. Lord Faulkner was awarded the distinction for his significant contributions to tourism, cultural exchanges and heritage preservation between Taiwan and the UK. As Lord Faulkner was unable to attend the Taiwan Tourism Festival Award Ceremony held on 7 February in Taipei, a special ceremony was held at the TRO’s London office. The event was attended by UK officials from the Department for International Trade as well as representatives from London’s diplomatic corps, including Ambassador of Honduras H.E. Ivan Romero-Martinez and Ambassador of Nicaragua H.E. Guisell Morales-Echaverry. In addition, former UK Representative to Taiwan Michael Reilly, former Royal United Services Institute (RUSI)

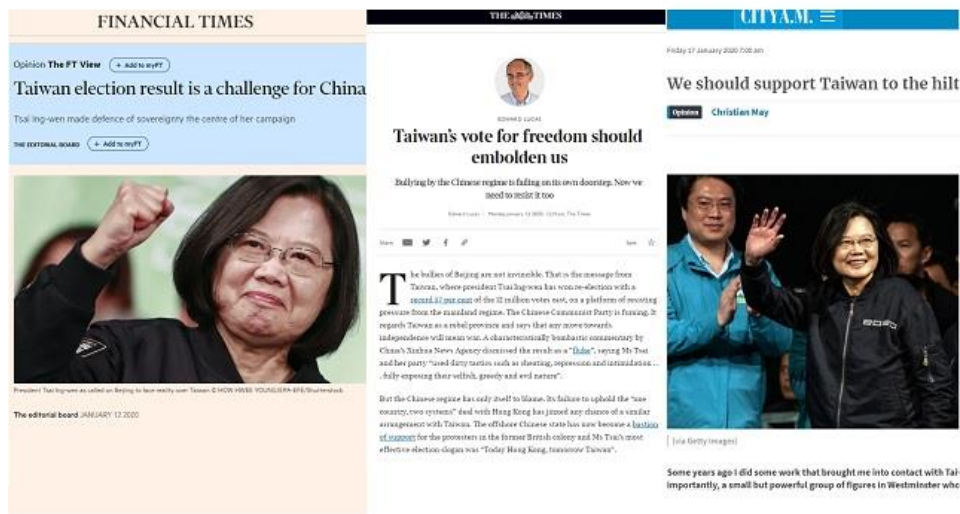
Director-General Michael Clarke and representatives from Taiwan's China Airlines and Eva Airlines were in attendance.

In his opening remarks, Representative Lin highlighted growing tourism exchanges with the number of tourists visiting Taiwan in 2019 reaching a record high of 11.86 million. Representative Lin also pointed out increasing bilateral tourism, citing that the number of Taiwanese tourists visiting the UK from 2016 to 2018 increased by 70%. He praised Lord Faulkner's contributions to increasing tourism to Taiwan, expressing gratefulness for the UK parliamentarian forming several delegations to promote the Alishan Forest Railway and Taiwan Railway Tourism, as well as his role in establishing the successful partnership between Alishan Forest Railway and the British Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway (WLLR). "With your staunch support in facilitating bilateral cooperation, I believe our relations will continue to thrive and grow in the years ahead," Representative Lin concluded.

Representative Lin highlights strength of Taiwan's democracy in interview with *BBC Newshour*

On 11 January, Representative Lin highlighted the strength of Taiwan's democracy in an interview with *BBC Newshour* following the country's election results that day. Representative Lin stressed that the election results show Taiwan's commitment to democratic values as well as its sovereignty, freedom and democracy. On the subject of Hong Kong, Representative Lin pointed out that the case of Hong Kong has shown that the so-called "one country, two systems" formula is a complete failure, adding that this has no appeal at all for the people in Taiwan. Commenting on Taiwan's future, Representative Lin emphasised that Taiwan is the freest and most open country in the region and expressed hope that Taiwan can be an example for other countries in the Asia-Pacific. On the subject of Beijing's aggressive approach, he stressed Taiwan's position of non-provocation but added that "at the same time, we will never bow to China's pressure." Representative Lin expressed hope for positive dialogue as well as a more predictable and sustainable relationship between Taiwan and China: "We are hoping to engage China in a positive way but on equal footing."

Financial Times, The Times and City AM express support for Taiwan's democracy following elections



(Original sources: *The Financial Times*, *The Times*, *City AM*)

On 12 January, *The Financial Times* published an editorial titled “Taiwan election result is a challenge for China” highlighting the success of Taiwan’s democracy and urging other democratic nations to support the country. The paper pointed out that in response to China’s increased efforts to end Taiwan’s *de facto* independence and impose unification, Taiwanese voters re-elected President Tsai, a candidate who “put the defence of her country and democracy at the centre of her electoral campaign.” Citing China’s intimidation tactics against Taiwan, including massive military build-up, the FT stressed that far from cowering the Taiwanese into submission, these threats have strengthened the island’s determination to resist Beijing’s embrace. The paper called on the world’s democracies to help Taiwan to fend off Beijing’s efforts to increase the island’s isolation: “Taiwan deserves more moral support of this kind. At a time when the People’s Republic of China is becoming ever more authoritarian, Taiwan’s continued success matters to the cause of democracies all over the world.”

The following day on 13 January, *The Times’* Edward Lucas also urged greater support for Taiwan as well as resistance against China’s bullying in an article titled “Taiwan’s vote for freedom should embolden us”. Lucas pointed out that China’s failure to uphold “one country, two systems” in Hong Kong jinxed any chance of a similar arrangement with Taiwan, and drew attention to China’s aggressive propaganda, subversion and intimidation toward Taiwan. Lucas urged greater support for Taiwan from Western countries as well as broader alliance against Chinese bullying. “The question for Britain, and indeed every other country, is this: will we show solidarity with Taiwan now—or will we wait until it’s our turn, when there may be nobody left to help?”

On 17 January, *City AM* editor Christian May echoed these sentiments in an article titled “We should support Taiwan to the hilt”, which highlighted Taiwan’s commitment to democracy and freedom as well as called on others to stand with the country following its elections results. The article stressed that anyone who supports democracy,

self-determination and liberty should hail the Taiwanese election result and pledge their support for this bold, dynamic and fearless island state. “There should be no ambiguity. Taiwan deserves support, recognition and praise,” said May, adding “China’s bullying approach should be condemned.”

UK students visit TRO to learn more about Taiwan



On 14 January, Representative Lin welcomed to the TRO a visiting group of 10 students from King’s House Preparatory School accompanied by Headmaster Dr Andrew Cook to enhance pupils’ understanding by answering their questions about Taiwan and the work of the office. The students asked Representative Lin about the Taiwanese economy, specifically GDP, trade and the importance of the technological sector. In addition, the young interviewers were interested to learn more about the country’s health and social care policies, education standards, popular sports, tourist attractions, the high-speed rail system as well as Taiwan’s approach to tackling climate change. Representative Lin provided relevant facts and figures relating to Taiwan and its relationship with the UK, pointing out the similarities and differences between the two countries and illustrating Taiwan’s significant position on the world stage.

Taiwan in the news:

- ['Chan, Dodić edged out in Australian Open mixed doubles](#)
- [Taiwan's agreements with EU apply to U.K. during Brexit transition](#)
- [MOF head urges investors to have faith despite virus scare](#)
- [Philippine romance returns to Taiwan for Valentine's Day](#)
- [EU representative hopes Taiwan can be part of European Green Deal](#)



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